BHAGAT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. AIR, Madras did not broadcast any such news item on 18th January, 1980. However AIR, Tiruchi in its Tamil news bulletin at 1410 hours on 18th December, 1987 carried the denial issued by the Tamil Nadu State Government regarding the appeal reported to have been made by the then Chief Minister in the Press to declare ceasefire in the IPKF operations in Sri Lanka for Christmas.

**New Radial rail corridor for the NCR**

1734. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for a new Radial Rail Corridor for the NCR;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the names of the major cities which are to be benefited by this proposal;

(d) what funds have been allocated for this purpose; and

(e) by when the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No new Radial Rail Corridor has been proposed in the Draft Regional Plan-2001 National Capital Region, while four new expressways have been proposed.

(b) and (c) The names and number of cities likely to be covered under the proposed expressways on new alignments are as follows:—

Delhi-Ghaziabad- Meerut - Linking Ghaziabad, Modinagar and Meerut towns.

(d) and (e) The proposal in question is a part of the Draft Regional Plan approved by the NCR Planning Board for inviting objections and suggestions. The Draft Plan is in process of being finalised in the light of objections and suggestions received. Requirement of funds would be worked out after the finalisation of the Regional Plan. A time bound programme can be finalised only after the projects have been sanctioned and funds allocated.

**Villages connected by Roads**

1735. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of villages in the country yet to be connected by roads;

(b) the number of villages connected by roads during the year 1987 as against the target, if any, and how does it compare with the villages connected by roads during the years 1985 and 1986; and

(c) what are the existing criteria for rural roads development and whether with a view to promote balanced regional development, Government propose to bring about suitable changes in the criteria and if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) As on 1-4-87, 60.28 per cent of total villages in the country were yet to be connected by all weather roads.

(b) As per the national norms all the villages with population over 1500 and 50 per cent of the villages with population between 1000—1500 are to be connected by all-weather roads by 1990 under the MNP. The target and achievement of villages belonging to these categories during

1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 are as under:—

| Year | Target | Achievement |
|---|---|---|
| 1985-86 . . | 3440 | 4328 |
| 1986-87 . . | 3016 | 3208 |
| 1987-88 . . | 3163 | 3163 (anticipated |

(c) The Sixth Five Year Plan document envisages that all the villages with population over 1500 and 50 per cent of the villages with population between 1000—1500 are to be connected by all-weather roads by 1990 under the MNP and 50 per cent of this taget was to be achieved by the end of Sixth Plan. A cluster of villages approach is to be adopted in the case of hill, tribal, desert and coastal areas where the population is sparse. Considering the difficult terrains of these areas however, the norms during the Seventh Plan have been revised as under:—

(i) *Hill Areas*:

(a) 100 per cent linkage during 10 years' time-frame to villages with population over 500.

(b) 50 per cent linkage during 10 years' time-frame to villages with population between 200 to 500.

(ii) *Tribal Coastal and Desert Areas*:

(a) 100 per cent linkage during 10 years' time-frame to villages with population over 1000.

(b) 50 per cent linkage during 10 years' time frame to villages with population between 500—1000.

**Acquisition of Surplus Land on the Enforcement of Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976**

1736. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total hectares of excess land which was anticipated to become available after enforcement of the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976 and the total hectares of surplus land actually acquired, to-date, stating the reasons for the shortfall, if any; and

(b) what percentage of the total acquired land was vested with the State Governments and the Union Territories for housing purposes and what is the percentage of land actually used by the State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations, stating the non-utilisation of the land in full?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) According to the information received from various State Governments etc. vacant land to the extent of 1075.274 hectares has been declared as surplus under the Act. Out of this 22.232 hectares of excess vacant land has been acquired and vested with the State Governments/Union Territories so far. The reasons for the shortfall are mainly due to the various exemptions provided under the Act and the court litigations.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Study on alcoholism and drug addiction**

1737. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently made any study about the problem of alcoholism and drug addiction in the urban and rural areas in the country;